

Bat Rabies



Prevention Poster Contest

Information & Instructions for School Kids!!

What do you know about bats?

- Bats are not birds, they are mammals. Mammals are animals with hair - female mammals have mammary glands for making milk for their babies.
- Bats are helpful in nature. Most eat pesky insects and some pollinate plants.
- There are 43 kinds of bats in the United States and Texas has 33 of these kinds!
- Texas has the largest known city bat group in Austin and the largest known cave group near San Antonio.
- Some bats have rabies.

Do you know what rabies is?

- It's a sickness that affects the brain of mammals.
- Rabies makes wild animals act strange, for example, they don't mind being near people or the animal might have trouble walking.
- If a bat is sick with rabies, it might not be able to fly and you could find one on the ground.
- Wild mammals that have rabies can give this sickness to other animals and people by biting. It can be hard to see bite marks from a bat because their teeth can be very small.
- Rabies can make animals and people VERY sick, so sick that the animal dies.
- Luckily, there is medicine that can keep people and their pets from getting rabies.

Do you know what to do if you see a bat?

- Don't touch it! Find an adult and show it to them immediately.
- If you see a bat at school, tell a teacher right away!

What mammals, besides bats, are most likely to have rabies in Texas?

- Skunks, foxes, bobcats, raccoons and coyotes.
- Even cats and dogs sometimes get rabies from wild animals.

Do you know how to keep your dog, cat, or ferret safe from getting sick with rabies?

- Take your pet to your veterinarian every year.
- The veterinarian will make sure your dog, cat or ferret is vaccinated for rabies, just like when you go to the doctor to get your shots.
- Keep your pet away from wild animals that can have rabies.

Now we want you to draw something about what you've just learned. Your drawing must be original! Here are some ideas:

Bat (mammal that can fly)



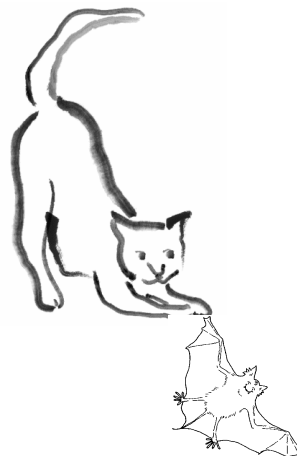
Skunk



Fox



Cat playing with a bat



Dog on a leash

